

June 13, 2017

Tom Ford  
Guangyu Wang  
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

Dear Tom and Guangyu,

I'm writing to express my interest in becoming a member of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Technical Advisory Council. Over the years, as you both know, the Sea Grant Program and USC have had a strong and mutually supportive working relationship. Guangyu has served on Sea Grant's Advisory Council for over 20 years, working with us on strategic planning and the development of our research priorities for each biennial call for research proposals. That has proved most valuable for our "Urban Ocean" program -- informing us about emerging issues of concern for Santa Monica Bay and the urban shoreline so important to millions of Californians. It is my hope that we can formalize our two-way communication facilities.

As a member of the SMBRC TAC, I can serve a similar purpose, in addition to providing information about what funded research and extension activities are taking place in our shared Southern California geography. Moreover, because our program reaches into a suite of important issues and problems that may not be represented at the top of SMBRC's agenda, I can bring attention to issues that we can address together. I was glad to participate in SMBRC's Management Plan process in tackling climate change and sea level rise issues and I would like to continue making what contributions I can.

Sea Grant has funded a number of projects -- on urchin barrens and kelp restoration most recently -- representing partnerships between SMBRC and research scientists in academia. These projects have been successful, but we can still do an even better job identifying emerging areas of concern for research and outreach if we are working together.

I'd be pleased if you would consider formalizing our relationship for the continuing benefit of our regional coastal ocean and shorelines. Both of our organizations face unprecedented pressure on our financial and policy futures. Working together, we will persist!

Sincerely,



Phyllis Grifman, Associate Director